

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 483) "An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit Medicare select policies to be offered in all States, and for other purposes."

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minute speeches on each side.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF E.C. "GUS" GUSTAFSON, CHIEF REPORTER OF OFFICIAL REPORTERS OF DEBATE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, when the House adjourns this week, it will literally mark the end of an era. From the days of the Pharaohs, from the days of Moses, to the time of King Arthur, to the founding of our great Constitution and the words of our Founding Fathers, all of the great spoken words were memorialized by hand, pen, quill, and ink.

Not any more. Now this new high-technology stenotype machine, handled by lovely people such as Ms. Mazur and others of the official Office of the Reporters of Debates, shall memorialize all the great debates that take place in the House, including that today on foreign operations.

But the reason why this great era is ending, Mr. Speaker, is because a beautiful man, the chief of the Office of the Reporters of Debates, E. Charles Gustafson, known to us all as Gus, is finally retiring.

My colleagues, this beautiful man was born in 1921, on June 26, in West Clarksville, NY. Gus then graduated from the Gregg College of Court Reporting in Chicago, IL, and began his great career in the early 1940's in nearby Cleveland, OH, to my hometown of Youngstown. Many of my colleagues may not realize that when the war broke out, World War II, Gus enlisted in the Navy and served his Nation aboard the battleship U.S. *New Jersey* and in the Philippines, and upon his discharge, Mr. Speaker, Gus resumed his career in my hometown, Youngstown, OH, and from 1946 to 1972 did tremendously, establishing the foundation of what would be called the ultimate for a reporter, to in fact be summoned to Washington, DC.

When the House adjourns this week, my colleagues, Gus Gustafson will join his beautiful wife, Betsy, his two sons, Charles and Richard, and his beautiful grandchildren, Ann and Alex, in that retirement.

My colleagues, if Gus could speak on the floor, he would say: "Take care of

your country, take care of America; that's why you were elected."

He would also say, "Help the American people get jobs, and they won't need that much government," and he would also say, "Pass H.R. 390 to change the burden of proof in tax cases."

My colleagues, I want to present on his retirement, Gus Gustafson. Hear, hear, Gus. My colleagues, one of the great men of the United States Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], and on behalf of the Speaker and the entire House of Representatives, the Chair wishes to take this opportunity to thank our dear friend, E.C. "Gus" Gustafson, for a very special service to the House. Gus' retirement does represent the end of a great tradition of shorthand official reporting in the House. His attention to detail, his patience, his mastery of proper parliamentary terms and references, and his willingness to communicate his knowledge and experience to other official reporters deserves special commendation at this time. We all wish him well.

#### WHAT IS IT LIKE TO FIGHT FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION FROM FIRST CLASS?

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have been working hard in the House for months to eliminate four Cabinet departments and balance the budget because we are serious about trimming the size of the Federal Government. We started with our own budget, cutting committees, cutting committee staff, and congressional mailings by a third. But we also believe it is time for the Cabinet to step up to the plate, and there is not a better place to start than the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, at committee hearings Energy Secretary O'Leary tells us that she cannot find even one more dollar to cut in her department. She says she wants to reform the Department of Energy. But in next year's budget she wants an additional \$337 million and \$360 million for travel.

Well, the L.A. Times tells us the real story. Secretary O'Leary spends more on travel than any other member of the Clinton Cabinet. She is flying first class at taxpayers' expense. She is staying in four-star hotels, luxury hotels. I guess she thinks it is proper for taxpayers to foot the bill for her Robin Leach lifestyle.

My question for the Secretary is: "What's it like to fight for deficit reduction from first class?"

#### WHY DOESN'T THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ABIDE BY THE RULES?

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I hold up this little book, and I ask, "Why don't the majority abide by this book?"

Mr. Speaker, this is a bible of the House of Representatives. It is the Rules of the House of Representatives. Yet under section 10, subsection 62(a), it says no Member of this House may be a member of more than four subcommittees. That is a rule of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, that was changed by the majority of Republicans under Speaker GINGRICH back in January when we used to be able to have five subcommittees. He said, "No, only four." Well, we now have 30, 30 members of the majority Republican Party, who have more than four subcommittees, some as many as six.

Mr. Speaker, I ask, "Why doesn't the leadership of the Republican Party say that they will abide by the rules of this House? Why?"

Because, Mr. Speaker, they make a constant effort not to abide by the rules of the House.

#### AID TO RUSSIA

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today the House is going to debate the foreign operations appropriation bill. During the debate on this bill I think we should work to spend this money wisely and responsibly. While the bill today is better than in past years, many of us have been concerned about the spending that has gone into foreign aid in the past, particularly aid directed at the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, we have given the former Soviet Union billions of dollars in foreign aid and wonder how wisely this has been spent. I am convinced that much of it has not been spent wisely at all. That is because between 50 and 90 percent of the money in these aid packages has not reached the pockets of one single pro-democracy, pro-market, pro-reform Russian.

Instead, much of the money has been found in the pockets of consultants right here in the beltway, the "beltway bandits," and much of the rest of it has just disappeared into the former Soviet Union without any real accounting of where it went or how it was being spent. Too much of it has been given to consultants, too much of it has disappeared, too little of it has gone to solid pro-democracy reformers in Russia.

Therefore, my colleagues, let us look at this Russian section of the foreign aid bill very carefully today.